

# Kingston Show How To Make 4-2-4 Tactics Pay Off

By "NOVA"

Wycombe Wanderers 1,  
Kingstonian 3

**WYCOMBE WANDERERS'**  
4-2-4 system and the new players in the senior team came under the critical eye of Loakes Park supporters for the first time this season on Saturday.

Individually the newcomers did reasonably well but the new set-up did not, and it was a little ironic that Wycombe fans should see their team's plan upset by Kingston, who were also playing 4-2-4.

This game pin-pointed the reason for the Wanderers' failure in the Isthmian League games so far. They still lack a dangerous marksman. They had more of the play, more of the chances; yet lost by two clear goals.

If the 4-2-4 system of play is to be continued Wycombe will be well advised to take notice of the way Kingston played it. The K's four-man defensive brigade rarely ventured as far as the half-way line.

Wycombe's, on the other hand, often disintegrated as one or other of the four—probably exasperated by his forwards lack of finishing power—went upfield to try his luck.

## THE LESSON

Kingston's two link men, Les Gilson and Dave Montague, showed Dave Thomas and John Beck especially that their job is not just an attacking one. They sent a steady stream of passes through the home defence but when the need arose they pulled right back into defensive positions, helping to form a solid barrier which thwarted Wycombe's close-passing forward movements.

On the other hand, Thomas and Beck put much more emphasis on attack. The obvious move to remedy the weakness—even allowing for

Beck's attacking ideas—would be to switch Gale to link man with Thomas. On this showing Gale was wasted by being used purely as a defender.

But the most noticeable difference between the sides was in the forward line. Tony Horseman, still conscious of his arm which he dislocated three weeks ago, and new boy Dave Bassett seemed like a couple of schoolboys in their play compared with Kingston's double-pronged attack of Tony Slade and John McCormack.

Only minutes before half-time K's two key marksmen showed that they could deliver the goods promised.

When a neat pass through the defence sent McCormack away, his shot hit the post but Slade was in position to scramble it home.

## SAME PATTERN

The same pattern followed in the second half. Wycombe gained midfield superiority but their defence was caught napping again.

Len Worley, the most brilliant individual on the field, was constantly in action but Kingston seemed rarely in trouble.

As Wycombe gained in confidence and the defenders slipped slowly upfield, Kingston struck their fatal blow. McCormack latched easily on to another through ball and slid it effortlessly past Colin Bunting.

Hay, who had a reasonable game in an unfamiliar position on the left wing, snatched back one goal, but seven minutes from time McCormack scored again after Pullin had done well to block a shot from Foster.

Wycombe.— C. Bunting; A. Lewis, G. Pullin; J. Beck, P. Roystone, C. Gale; L. Worley, D. Bassett, D. Thomas, T. Horseman, J. Hay.

Kingstonian.— J. Wakefield; R. Taylor, P. Vince; L. Gilson, D. Roberts, R. Haider; E. Foster, D. Montague, A. Slade, J. McCormack, A. Wyatt.

# NO PUNCH PIPS WYCOMBE

Wycombe W 1 Kingstonian 3

**WYCOMBE'S** lack of punch cost them both points in this game—their third successive Isthmian League defeat.

Both sides adopted the 4-2-4 formation, but although Wycombe's superior approach work gave them the greater share of the play, Kingstonian always looked more dangerous in front of goal.

Kingstonian match-winner was inside left John McCormack, who scored two goals and had a hand in the third.

Kingstonian's powerful defence, with centre-half Roberts conspicuous, held Wycombe's young forwards in the first half, and two minutes before the interval centre-forward Tony Slade put them ahead.

Right-winger Worley and 18-year-old newcomer Bassett led a series of lively Wycombe second-half attacks in which Wakefield made some smart saves and left-back Vince once cleared off the goal line.

But Kingstonian snapped back with a shock counter-attack which enabled McCormack to add a second in the 59th minute.

Kingstonian right winger Foster went off injured, and Wycombe recovered with a goal from Hay, but with Foster's return Kingstonian struck back again and McCormack smacked home the third five minutes before the end.